Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01932 240920Z

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 240835Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

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EXDIS

S/S-O PASS NEA/ARN AND AID ASST ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER ONLY

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, APER, SY, US SUBJ: AID OFFICE STAFFING

- 1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE HAVING HAD CHANCE TO MEET KEN LEVICK AND OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS REGARDING POSITION OF FUTURE AID REPRESENTATIVE IN DAMASCUS WITH HIM.
- 2. BEFORE DECISION ON ASSIGNMENT OF AID REPRESENTATIVE IS MADE, HOWEVER, I WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH NOOTER AND TO REVIEW FILES OF OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR POSITION. IF PRESENT LEAVE PLANS HOLD I WILL BE IN US FOR MUCH OF JUNE AND WOULD PLAN FEW DAYS IN WASHINGTON TOWARD MID-MONTH.O
- 3. PROFILE OF AID REP DAMASCUS, IN MY VIEW, SHOULD BE PERSON OF OUTGOING, ACCESSIBLE PERSONALITY WHO CAN DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN RAPPORT WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN CLIMATE OF SUSPICION AND SOME HOSTILITY TOWARD US. SENSE OF HUMOR AND ADAPTABILITY ARE ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES IN THIS SOCIETY WHERE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PERSON SHOULD BE IMAGINATIVE, FLEXIBLE, AND QUICK-MOVING WITH ABILITY CONFIDENTIAL

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TO REACT QUICKLY O REQUIREMENTS OF SITUATION WHICHHWILL

OFTEN BE GOVERNED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIRE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COORDINATION WITH ME AND OTHER SECTIONS OF MISSION. HE MUST BE ABLE AND WILLING TO PITCH IN ON WORKING LEVZL IN MANAGING PROGRAM WHICH WILL EXPERIENCE PERIODS OF INTENSE WORKLOAD. FINALLY, I PREDICT WE WILL HAVE TO DO A LOT OF HIGH-LEVEL PURSUIT OF OUR SYRIAN CONTACTS TO GET THE NECESSARY DATA FOR OUR PROGRAMS, GIVEN THE ILL-COORDINATED AND SLUGGISH NATURE OF THIS BUREAUCRACY.

4. POSITION WOULD SEEM BEST FILLED BY FSR-2 OR JUNIOR R-1 LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, TONY SCHWARTZWALDER, WHOM I UNDERSTAND WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, OF COURSE,HTHAT REP MUST BE PERSON OF HIGH PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WITH WHOM SYRIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE ANXIOUS TO DO BUSINESS BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL OPENNESS AND WHAT HE CAN OFFER THEM, AND WHO WILL RISE TO CHALLENGE OF SETTING UP NEW OFFICE AND HOUSEHOLD AND LIVING IN SITUATION OF POLITICAL TENSION AND SCARCITY OF AMENITIES.

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